

miscalculation that had been made about the poll-tax.<sup>1</sup> All the money that had accrued from it had been sunk in the expedition to Brittany, and not a groat remained for other necessary expenses. The Commons alone could open the purse-strings of the taxpayers and save the kingdom from calamity. A few days later the news must have reached Westminster that the expedition for which all else had been sacrificed had returned shattered to Southampton, unable to face the winter gales. The Lower House at once proceeded, in a most businesslike manner, to put an entirely new set of advisers and ministers around the King. At the dictation of the Speaker the Council of Regency was broken up, while Lord Scrope, unable to retain the Chancellorship in which he had been so continually unsuccessful, was succeeded by Archbishop Sudbury.<sup>2</sup>

The Commons had won a great triumph. They had made a new government according to their fancy. Unfortunately it was no more successful than its predecessors in stemming the tide of disaster. The King's uncle, the Earl of Buckingham, was sent over to aid the Duke of Brittany with a large army. He landed at Calais and took a long march through France as far as Troyes before turning back to succour our ally. The reception of the English when they at last appeared at their destination was cold. They had come late, and the Bretons had suffered by their delay. Charles the Fifth of France had just died, and was succeeded by Charles the Sixth. \* Those who hated the father,' said the Duke of Brittany when he heard it, ' may love the son.' The English alliance, he saw, was a broken reed, and he at once took measures to get rid of our countrymen from his duchy.<sup>3</sup> When this was finally accomplished, two years later,<sup>4</sup> our last alliance in France was gone. But we still held our forts on the coast, and intrigued and fought in Flanders, where the rise of Philip van Artevelde afforded a chance of making the Flemish towns a basis of operations. For six years more, although the war taxation was so severe as to produce at one moment a grave social crisis, we refused to make terms. It was not the stupid blind-

<sup>1</sup> *Rot. Parl., Hi.* 73.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* iii. 73; *Feed.*, iv.

75.

<sup>3</sup> *Froiss., il cxi., cxii., cxvi., cxx ; Wals., i. 44=0-4.* \*  
*Wals., ii> 47.*